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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 6 on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2 shows a functional block diagram of one embodiment of a near-end modem system 200 in accordance with the invention. The near-end system is sometimes referred to as a remote-terminal (RT) system, whereas a far-end system (see Figure 3) is sometimes referred to as a central office (CO) system. In this embodiment, the RT system 200 comprises an asymmetric digital subscriber loop (ADSL) system which conforms to ADSL standard promulgated by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) in ~~T1.431~~ T1.413-1998, which is incorporated in its entirety by reference. The communication channel from the RT system 200 to the CO system is commonly referred to as an “upstream” channel, and that from the CO system to the RT system 200 is commonly referred to as a “downstream” channel.